

Recommendations from Global GAS Vaccine Implementation Break out Group (March 2004 group A strep Vaccine Workshop)

Top 3 priorities:

1. Timely introduction of the vaccine globally will require that clinical trials of GAS vaccine in developing countries take place concurrently with those in industrialized countries. In order to obtain timely public sector support towards this objective to:
 - a. Determine (via focus groups, market research) the disease outcomes, disease manifestations, vaccine characteristics (including level of evidence supporting efficacy) that will drive acceptance of GAS vaccine in multiple countries (region-specific)
 - b. Make case for investment by public and private sectors to conduct or support clinical trials (including appropriate cost-benefit data)
2. Having global goals (e.g., “eliminate ARF or RHD”) may increase awareness and attract investment for vaccine development and introduction. Early studies should aim to define realistic goals that may be used for advocacy.
3. Develop and sustain regional surveillance systems that are able to document vaccine success by measuring appropriate outcomes/endpoints; this surveillance must be in place prior to vaccine use and should include ability to assess strain distribution/replacement if appropriate

Other recommendations:

Evaluate schedules that are compatible with EPI schedules
(combinations, formulations)